



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4**

**SUPERFUND FACT SHEET**

**Brown's Dump Superfund Site  
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida**

**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Kickoff**

**April 2000**

***This Fact Sheet contains:***

- *Introduction*
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- *Opportunities for Community Involvement*

**EPA CONTACTS**

**Please call, e-mail or write with  
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***Introduction***

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues this fact sheet to announce the start of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted at the Brown's Dump site. The RI/FS will be conducted under an Administrative Order on Consent between EPA and the City of Jacksonville, the Duval County School Board (DCSB), and the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA).

This fact sheet is issued as part of EPA's public participation responsibilities under Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Information summarized in this fact sheet can be found in greater detail in documents contained in the Administrative Record (AR). The AR and an Information Repository for the Brown's Dump site are located at:

**Clanzel Brown Community Center**

**4545 Moncrief Road**

**Jacksonville, Florida 32205**

**(904) 765-5282**

**Monday-Friday: 8:30 am - 8:00 pm**

Documents included in the AR and Information Repository are available to the public for viewing and copying.

## **Site Description and History**

The Brown's Dump Superfund site (the site) is located in the northwest portion of the City of Jacksonville in Duval County, Florida. From the 1940s to the early 1950s, the site was an operating landfill that was used to deposit ash from municipal solid waste incinerators operated by the City of Jacksonville. The Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School, a JEA electrical substation, and many apartments and single-family residences have since been built on or near the former dump (see the Brown's Dump site map attached).

Ash, visually identified by the presence of glass and metal fragments, can be found throughout the approximately 89-acre site. Layers of ash ranging from inches to several feet in thickness are present at depths varying from ground surface to 20 or more feet below. These layers contain lead and other contaminants. Contamination from the site has affected surface soils, sediments, surface water, and groundwater. Tests on soils from the site show that lead, arsenic, other metals, organics, and pesticides are present above EPA's screening levels. Soil exposure to students of the elementary school and residents living on and near the site is the primary concern, however contamination in groundwater and surface water is also a concern.

To assess current health risks at the site, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducted two health consultations and a health assessment. ATSDR concluded that portions of the site are a potential public health hazard and recommended interim actions: (a) restrict public access to the most contaminated soils, (b) conduct further sampling, and (c) delineate the extent of contamination. As a result, an area of the school grounds with lead levels above 2000 parts per million (ppm) was fenced off, temporary ground cover (mulch, sand or sod) was placed throughout the school grounds and neighborhoods, and an EPA-enforced Remedial Investigation is underway.

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## **The Superfund Law**

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, commonly known as the Superfund law), was passed in 1980 and amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986. CERCLA enables EPA to respond directly to releases of hazardous substances at unregulated or abandoned sites. In addition, it allows EPA to clean up these sites or to require private parties who contributed to creating the site to do so.

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## **Plans for the Brown's Dump Site Remedial Investigation (RI)**

The City of Jacksonville agreed to take the lead in planning and conducting the RI in consultation with the DCSB and JEA. To meet EPA goals, the City recently submitted an RI/FS Work Plan (available for viewing at the Information Repository). After thorough review and revision by EPA's technical team, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and community members, EPA approved a final Work Plan on March 27, 2000.

The RI/FS Work Plan details the sampling goals, strategies, and methods that will be followed during the Brown's Dump RI, beginning in April 2000. To determine the nature and extent of contamination in surface and subsurface soils at the Site, a two-phased strategy has been developed.

### **Phase I - Delineation**

The goal of Phase I is to delineate the extent (find the boundaries) of the site contamination. From previous site investigations, the extent of ash contamination has been estimated as shown on the site map on page 4. During the RI, this estimate will be confirmed or modified by extensive sampling along the perimeter of the estimated ash boundary. The objective is to bound the contamination by defining a "clean" line, and thereby delineate the extent of the site.

For Phase I, every soil sample will be field-tested for lead at the site. Each soil sample that appears to be part of the "clean" line will also be sent to a laboratory and tested for all metals. In addition, 10% of the "clean" line samples will be tested for organics, pesticides and dioxins in the laboratory.

### **Phase II - Characterization**

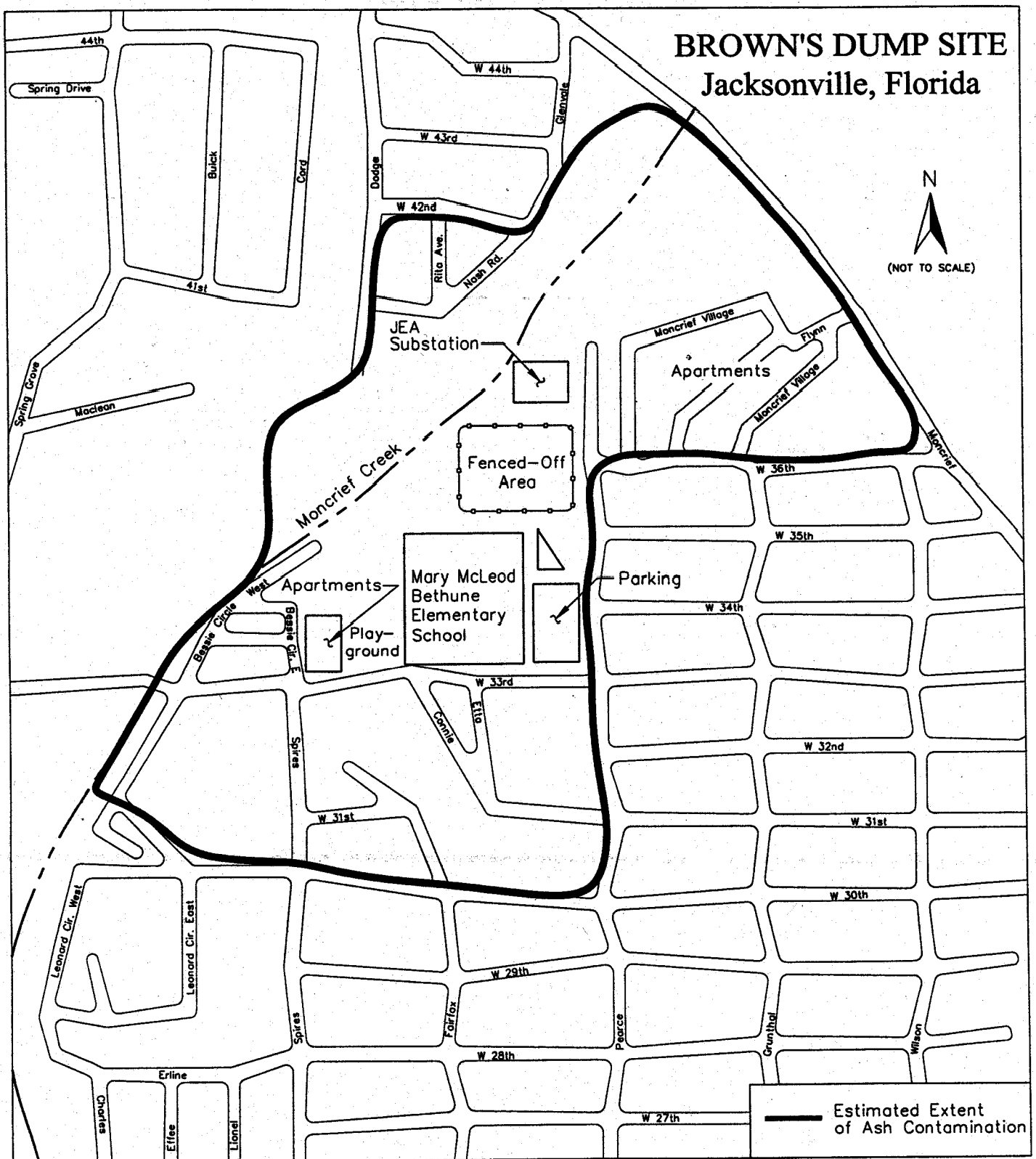
Phase II goals are (a) to characterize the contamination by identifying the types and concentrations of hazardous substances, and (b) to define the vertical extent of contamination within the confirmed site area. Each location will be sampled at different depths: at the surface (0 to 6 inches); at one-foot intervals within the ash; and one foot below the ash. The number of samples taken at each location will depend on the depth of ash; at a minimum, three samples will be taken at each location.

Again in Phase II, every soil sample will be field-tested for lead. In addition, 20% of these samples will be sent to a lab and tested for all metals and 10% will be sent to a lab and tested for organics, pesticides and dioxins.

### **Groundwater and Surface Water**

Monitoring wells will be installed to characterize the site groundwater. All samples will be laboratory tested for metals, organics, and pesticides. Twenty percent will also be tested for volatile organics and dioxins.

An investigation of Moncrief Creek will also occur during this RI; the Work Plan for this sampling effort is currently being developed. The Moncrief Creek Work Plan will be reviewed by EPA, FDEP and members of the community before EPA issues its approval and sampling begins.



**Site Map**

## **The Superfund Process**

### **Site Discovery and Assessment**

After a site is discovered, EPA or the State investigates the site, considering such factors as the type of contaminants and possible risks to human health and the environment from contamination. The effects on environmental media (air, groundwater, surface water, and soil), possible pathways of exposure, and effects on populations are assessed. These initial investigations can include a Preliminary Assessment (PA), a Site Inspection (SI), and an Expanded Site Investigation (ESI).

EPA identifies private parties who may be legally responsible for the contamination. Once identified, EPA offers these parties an opportunity to participate in the site investigation and cleanup. If able but unwilling, EPA can order the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to participate or pay for the site costs.

### **Remedial Investigation**

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to fully determine the nature and extent of contamination from the site. RI activities typically include testing numerous samples of soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater to determine what contaminants are present and at what concentrations, and where the contamination is present. EPA monitors the findings throughout the investigation and takes emergency actions if needed.

### **Risk Assessment**

Using results from the RI, a Human Health Risk Assessment and an Ecological Risk Assessment are conducted. The Risk Assessments evaluate potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the site contaminants. The results of these evaluations help EPA determine whether a cleanup is necessary and identify the appropriate cleanup levels for protecting human health and the environment.

### **Feasibility Study**

Using results from the Remedial Investigation and the Risk Assessment, the Feasibility Study (FS) identifies possible cleanup alternatives for the Site. EPA applies specific criteria to evaluate each alternative:

- ! overall protection of human health and the environment
- ! compliance with applicable or relevant Federal or State environmental standards/requirements
- ! long-term effectiveness and permanence
- ! reduction of toxicity (harmfulness), mobility (potential for movement), or volume (amount) of hazardous substances
- ! short-term effectiveness or immediate impacts
- ! implementability
- ! cost-effectiveness
- ! acceptance by the State and community

### **Proposed Plan/Public Comment Period**

After consulting with the State, EPA then proposes its preferred cleanup remedy and presents it to the public for comment. After considering public input and responding to comments, EPA selects the final remedy that will be used to reduce risks posed by the site contamination and issues it in a Record of Decision (ROD).

### **Remedial Design - Remedial Action - Deletion**

EPA directs the engineering design for the cleanup (Remedial Design) and the cleanup work (Remedial Action) specified in the ROD. When the site has been effectively cleaned up, EPA proposes that the site be removed (site Deletion) from the Superfund process. The public is given an opportunity to comment on the proposed Deletion before EPA makes a final determination.

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## **Opportunities for Community Involvement**

Congress mandated that EPA provide communities affected by Superfund activities an opportunity to be involved in cleanup decision-making. EPA has developed a community involvement program to respond to citizens' concerns and to provide sufficient information for meaningful participation.

EPA has prepared a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the Brown's Dump site (available for viewing at the Information Repository) based on interviews with local leaders and private citizens. The CIP lists techniques to be used to involve the public.

Such efforts include identifying EPA telephone contacts, distributing fact sheets and meeting notifications using a site mailing list, hosting informal open houses and/or public meetings for two-way communication, placing media ads and press releases, establishing and maintaining information repositories, and developing an Administrative Record.

EPA encourages community members to get involved and provide feedback throughout the Superfund process. EPA provides public comment periods to solicit community input at major decision points and develops summaries of the comments received and EPA's responses.

In addition, the Citizens Organized for Environmental Justice, Inc. has been selected as a representative community group for the Brown's Dump Site. The City of Jacksonville is providing funding for the community group to hire a Technical Advisor to assist them in participating in the Superfund process.

On behalf of the community group, the Technical Advisor will review and prepare comments on technical documents and will help members understand the Superfund activities and results. EPA has designated the Technical Advisor as a member of its technical Peer Review team for documents submitted to EPA by the City of Jacksonville pertaining to the Brown's Dump site.

For more information about the Brown's Dump Community Group and the Technical Advisor, please contact Nellie Tunsill, Chairperson for the Citizens Organized for Environmental Justice, Inc.

**Mailing List Additions**

EPA has developed a mailing list for the Brown's Dump site. Meeting notices and fact sheets will be mailed out as they are released. If you would like to be added to EPA's list for future mailings, please contact:

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